January
1991

Carolina Country®

New generating facilities on the Outer Banks are throwbacks to the first power plant built on the islands 40 years ago. See story, page 10.

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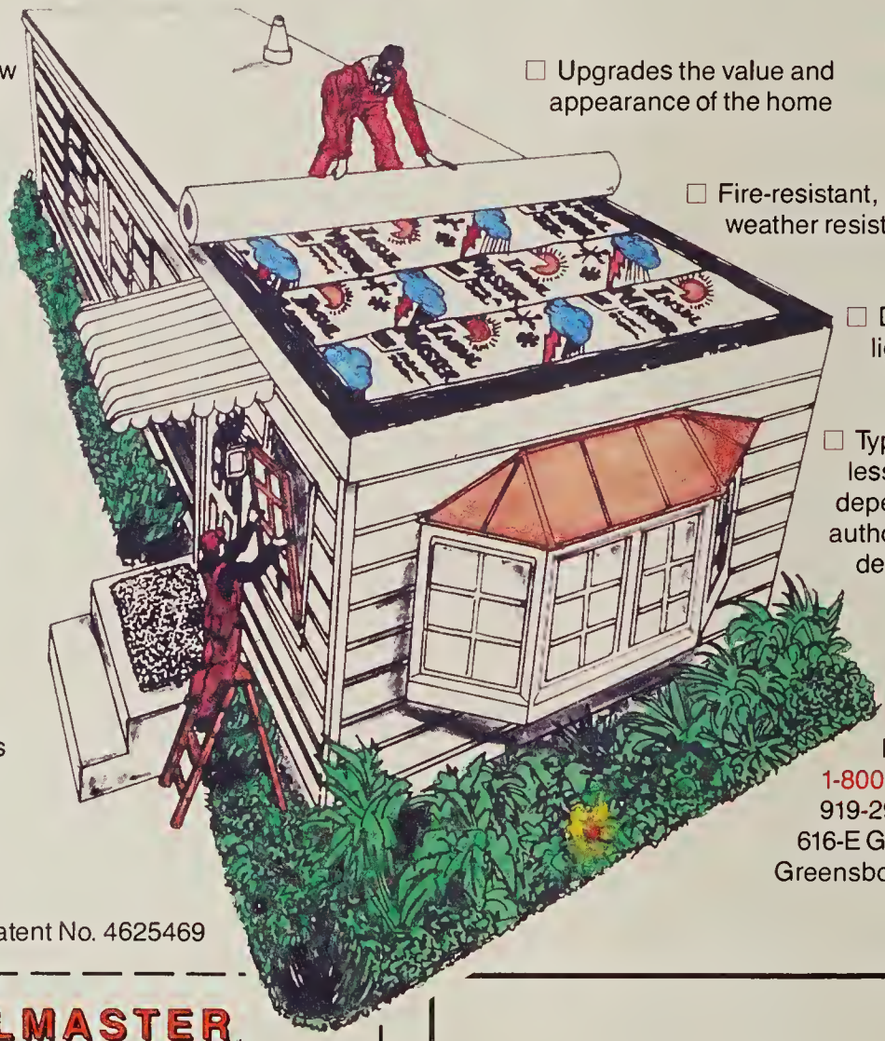

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VIEWPOINT

Co-ops Will Need No Taxpayer Bail-Out

With this installment, "Viewpoint" becomes a monthly commentary by Wayne D. Keller, executive vice president of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) and its allied corporations making up the statewide organization of electric cooperatives.

In recent years, the nation's rural electric ɔoperatives have picked up something of a ɔdney Dangerfield complex: they can't get any ·spect in some quarters.

There's plenty of reason for it, as the co-ops' ıancing program has withstood repeated tacks from the executive branch of govern- ent in Washington and from the media— hich has often presented an inaccurate and ased picture of how the program works.

You may have read some of these mislead- g articles in recent months and wondered hat they mean in terms of the financial stability your electric co-op. One of them suggested at American taxpayers might have to bail out ıancially-troubled co-ops.

The rural electric program throughout the ıuntry, and particularly in North Carolina, is ıancially strong and healthy. A handful of -ops—none of them in North Carolina—are ving financial problems but they're taking ps to remedy the situation. Some losses are ssible but the loans are backed by assets. That ans there will be no need for a taxpayer bail- t of any sort!

Local electric co-ops, which supply power ·ectly to their consumer-members, borrow ıds from REA to finance expansion and provement projects. These are known as ısured" loans.

Generating and transmission co-ops, such NCEMC, supply bulk power to local coopera- es, and they borrow funds through REA's ıaranteed" loan program. These monies come m the Federal Financing Bank and are guaran- d by REA, a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This is the kind of loan NCEMC obtained several years ago to finance its purchase of a share in the Catawba Nuclear Station near Charlotte.

Currently, the insured loan program makes up about $12 billion or a little more than one-third of REA's total loan portfolio of $35 billion. The remainder are guaranteed loans, which are repaid by the borrowers to fully cover the government's cost of money. And they pay a service fee of one-eighth of 1 percent. So, Uncle Sam earns money on these loans.

The insured loans are issued at 5 percent interest except in cases of extreme hardship, when 2 percent loans may be available. The difference between those rates and the government's cost of money is covered in the budget process. That's the government's way of assisting the co-ops, just as it also aids investor-owned utilities and muncipal electric systems. Such aid is part of long-standing federal policy that has been repeatedly reaffirmed by Congress—often in the face of strong opposition from the White House.

Meanwhile, REA requires that insured program borrowers may borrow no more than 70 percent of a project's cost from the federal agency. The remaining 30 percent must come from other sources at prevailing market interest rates.

Much of that supplemental money comes from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a lending agency that was organized by the co-ops themselves.

Because of this arrangement, the vast majority of the nation's distribution co-ops now pay a blended interest rate of between 5 and 8.5 percent.

REA officials are considering a change in the rules to require that the co-ops obtain even more of their financing from market sources, but no decision has been made about that.

Thus far, these financing mechanisms have worked so well that the rural electric loan program is often cited as one of the soundest examples of effective government assistance in U. S. history.

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Federal Disaster Aid To Hugo Victims Will Top $2.6 Billion

The government will spend about $2.6 billion in federal disaster aid to help the victims of Hurricane Hugo, which caused widespread destruction in 1989 when it stormed across the Caribbean and the Carolinas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), marking the first anniversary of the hurricane in September, said some $1.19 billion of the federal money was needed to supplement the long-term recovery needs of residents and business owners hurt by the storm.

The projected FEMA figure includes $725 million in family grants and housing assistance, $446 million in loans to cover uninsured private and business property losses, and $15 million in unemployment payments and counseling services.

FEMA said the storm caused more than 304,000 people to seek federal assistance, the most ever to register for disaster aid as a result of a single incident.

The costliest of the recoveries was in South Carolina, where $1.02 billion total federal funding was needed.

The total aid figure does not include the money and time donated by private citizens, corporations and rural electric cooperatives across the country that contributed volunteers, clothing, food and money to Hugo victims.

—Rural Electric News Servi

Cover: Watercolor By Jerry Burke

Our cover this month features an untitled original painting by Raleigh artist/illustrator Jerry Burke. The watercolor image was based on several actual farmhouse scenes he'd sketched.

This is the first of Burke's color artwork to be featured in *Carolina Country*. However, his illustrations have accompanied several features.

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HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Charlotte To Host Southern Spring Show

Spring's first scents will be found at the 31st Annual Southern Spring Show, Feb. 23 through March 3, at the Merchandise Mart in Charlotte.

The show will feature flowers, crafts and garden equipment, with more than 30 landscaped gardens and 25 designer-decorated rooms.

In addition, a judged orchid and flower show, and other flower demonstrations are scheduled.

Admission for the show is $6 for adults and $2.50 for children ages 6-12. Adult tickets are $5 in advance. Show times are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, write or call the Southern Spring Show at P.O. Box 36859, Charlotte, NC 28236. Phone: (704) 376-6594.

Textile Industry Highlighted In New Exhibition

The history of textile mills in Gaston County and the nation is examined at an exhibit at the Gaston County Museum of Art History through March 17.

The exhibit, which follows the 200-year history of the textile industry, also highlights various mills in the Gaston County area.

For more information, contact the museum at P.O. Box 429, 131 W. Main St., Dallas, NC 28034. Phone: (704) 922-7681.

Resource Book Describes Health Careers

A new book focusing on health careers is now available at public libraries and high schools across the state.

North Carolina Health Careers 1990 is a 136-page catalog listing 78 health-related careers. It also includes educational requirements and salary ranges for those positions.

Aimed at high school students, the book also lists hospitals and professional associations in the state as well as financial aid options for those planning their education.

The book is published by the N.C. Area Health Education Centers Program based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It has been distributed to libraries, high schools and Boy and Girl Scout organizations across the state.

Bismarck Reunion Set For Oct. 14-18 In San Antonio

Survivors are still being sought of the *USS Bismarck* CVE 95 & VC 86.

A reunion will be held Oct. 14-18 in San Antonio, TX, for survivors of the *USS Bismarck* and family members of those who died when the ship was sunk during World War II.

For more information about the USS Bismarck Survivors Association, contact James Taylor, HC 2, Box 298W, Canyon Lake, TX 78133.

CALDWELL COUNTY

150th

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SESQUICENTENNIAL

Caldwell Celebrates 150 Years

Caldwell County will be celebrating its 150th birthday during 1991 and has planned numerous events to observe the occasion.

On Feb. 5, author Ernest J. Gaines will speak at Caldwell Community College. Gaines' work includes *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and a *Gathering of Old Men*.

On March 3, Heritage Sunday will be observed in the area, with local churches celebrating with song and period dress.

On March 12, Edwin C. Bearss, chief historian for the U.S. Park Service, will speak at the Lenoir High School Auditorium. Interviews with Bearss were featured in the recent PBS special about the Civil War.

For more information on other anniversary events slated for Caldwell County, contact the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 510, Lenoir, NC 28645. Phone: (704) 754-0991.

Decoys Featured At New Exhibit

More than 30 decoys from the Jam Collection of Antiqu Waterfowl Decoys make up a new exhibit at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufor

The decoys, crafte by North Carolina's top carvers, will be display through Mar 24. The decoys are from the private col lection of Dr. A. Everett James, a not collector from Tenn see, and feature the works of such carve as John Williams of Cedar Island and G Bragg of Ocracoke Island.

For more inform tion on the exhibit, contact the museur at 315 Front St., Bea fort, NC 28516. Pho (919) 728-7317.

HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Colorful Textiles On Display At Mint Museum Exhibition

The colorful look of traditional Mexican fabrics will be featured in a new exhibit at the Mint Museum in Charlotte.

"Mexican Textiles: Line and Color," which will run from Jan. 26 through April 7, explores the heritage of the colorful woven fabrics worn in Mexico.

The exhibit will include more than 20 pieces and trace the history of Mexican

fabrics, from the Mayan and Aztec culture through the influence of Spain.

For more information on the exhibit, contact the museum at 2730 Randolph Rd., Charlotte, NC 28207. Phone: (704) 337-2000.

Video Battles Students' Ills With Grammar

Grammar has been taking a beating in recent years, but a new video is now available to help educators fight back.

"Standard English: Talking Your Way to the Top," is available to help students learn about proper English in order to function better in the workforce.

Rap music, street language and regional slang have all contributed to poor communications skills in young people.

The video, produced by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, focuses on two model communication programs: one at Raleigh's Broughton High School and the other at East Arcadia High School in Bladen County.

For more information, contact the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Communication Skills Program, 101 Reynolds Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106. Phone: (919) 725-7541.

Drakes Honored At Conference

An Edgecombe County couple has been named the "Outstanding Couple" at the 13th Annual Young Cooperators Conference in Pinehurst.

Paul and Melissa Drake of Rt. 1, Pinetops, received the honor at the conference, which was sponsored by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina.

The Drakes were one of 11 couples at the conference, which teaches adult couples about the advantages of the cooperative way. The couples are sponsored by co-ops across the state.

The Drakes were sponsored by Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, Tarboro.

As the "Outstanding Couple," the Drakes will represent North Carolina at the National Institute on Cooperative Education in Charlotte, July 22-25.

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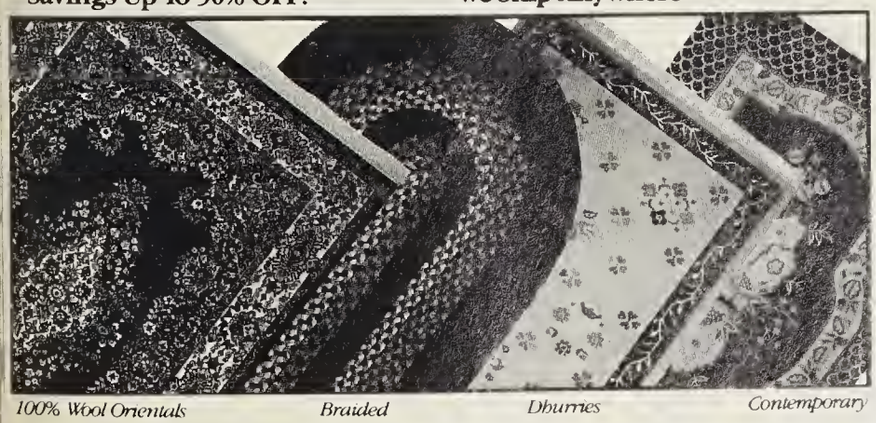

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HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Small Paintings To Highlight Hickory Exhibit

A selection of 65 paintings under 16 x 20 inches will be featured in a new exhibition at the Hickory Museum of Art.

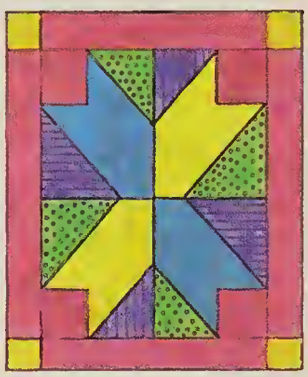
"Small Masterwork Paintings" will open Feb. 16 and run through March 31, depicting a wide variety of paintings—many from American artists in the 1800s.

The exhibit is organized by the Butler Museum of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio.

For more information, contact the Hickory Museum of Art, P.O. Box 2572, 243 Third Ave., Hickory, NC 28603. Phone: (704) 327-8576.

Folk Art Center Displays Quilts

About 30 of the South's most innovative quilters will be showcased in an exhibition at the Folk Art Center in Asheville through April 7.



"Southern Quilts: A New View," will feature contemporary Southern quilters whose work deviates from the traditional quilt techniques.

For more information on the exhibit, contact the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, P.O. Box 9545, Asheville, NC 28815. Phone: (704) 298-7928.

Rare Civil War Novels Available In New Volume

Two rare Civil War era novels have been combined in a facsimile edition that's available for purchase through the mail.

The North Carolina Historical Publications Section has published *The Captain's Bridge: A Tale of the War* and *The Deserter's Daughter,* two books written by William D. Herrington, a Pitt County Confederate soldier. Both were originally published in the 1860s.

The paperbound volume is available for $3, plus $1 for postage.

To order, send a check to the Historical Publications Section (N), Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601.

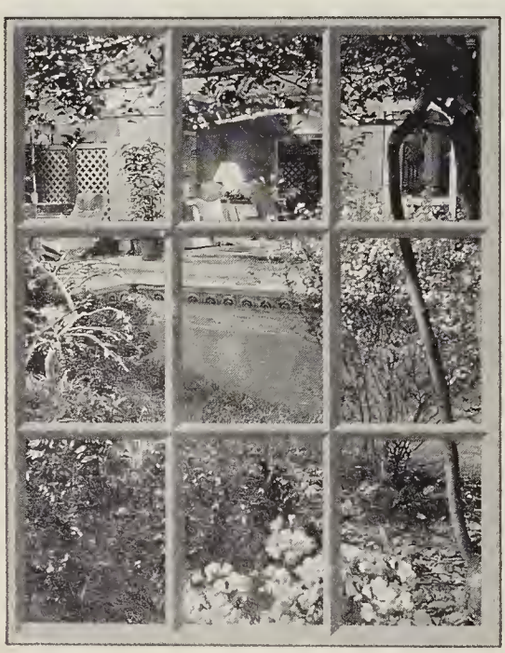
Museum Offering Programs At Cape Lookout

The North Carolin Maritime Museum is offering coastal education workshop through its Cape Loo out Studies Program

The program, avai able to groups of up 20 people, is held at the old Coast Guard Station at Cape Lookout.

Overnight accom modations are offer to groups with a wi variety of programs available, from dolphin behavior to an introduction of marine environmen Expert instructors a on hand to coordin the program.

For more inform tion on the progran contact the Cape Lookout Studies Pr gram Coordinator, N. C. Maritime Mus um, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC 2851 Phone: (919) 728-7317.



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—Text and photos by Randy Wheele

On The Outer Banks

Power Plants: Throwbacks To An Earlier Era

Mother Nature hasn't been kind to the Outer Banks recently as storms have left the area's residents coping with two power outage situations and the inconvenience of being cut off from the mainland except by ferry.

In October, a storm tossed a dredge into the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, causing three spans to collapse and severing the area's main power cable. The next month, a series of tornadoes hit the area, causing widespread power outages. (See opposite page for details.)

This one-two punch was a reminder of the delicate balance the Outer Banks must maintain with the forces of nature—and recalled another era when Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands had no power, no paved roads and no bridge at all to the mainland.

Oliver Rhoden, left, and Ralph Scarborough recall the first diesel plant built by Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corporation in 1948. Rhoden helped in the construction of the plant and Scarborough operated it for many years. North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation's diesel-fired Ocracoke Generating Station provided power for the Outer Banks during two emergencies last fall. Another such plant is under construction at Buxton.

More than 40 years ago, everyday life on the Outer Banks resembled the aftermath of the recent mishaps.

In 1948, before the Outer Banks had the Bonner Bridge or paved roads, electrical power began flowing to area residents from the Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corporation (EMC).

Thanks to a $187,000 loan from the Rural Electrification Administration, a small diesel-fired plant was built in Buxton and began operating in the summer of 1948. To the folks on the Outer Banks, the plant was the only option they had to supply themselves with power.

Today, a similar plant is being built on the same site. But this 15-megawatt plant, owned by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), will operate primarily during critical high demand periods—when the cost of purchased power is high.

A smaller 3-megawatt plant was tapped for emergency use during the fall emergencies on nearby Ocracoke Island. That plant operated co tinuously for seven days when the bridge collapsed and again after the tornadoes swept through the area. Both plants will continue to be available for use during emergency situations.

But in 1948, building a plant of any size was no small feat. Remember, there was no bridge or paved roads. A small handful of men erecte the plant, making cement blocks for it right at the construction site.

"It didn't look as good as a professional might have done it, but we did it," said Oliver Rhoden of Buxton, who helped build the plant and later hooked up service to members. "I think we did an excellent job."

Charlie Gray, a school principal, engineer and the first president o the board of Cape Hatteras EMC, oversaw the construction. He had bee involved since the project was first conceived in 1944.

Getting the generators to the plant was another tough task. The co-op contracted Frazier Peele, a local resident, to float a barge from Florida and back to bring two, 222-horsepower engines. Peele also managed to supply fuel to the plant for many years.

The introduction of electricity to the Outer Banks proved to be a blessing to residents. Many of the co-op's early workers said people we

anxious to sign up as EMC members.

"They didn't care where you put the pole—as long as you did it," said Clifton Austin, current manager of Cape Hatteras EMC. "Now, we're having to go back and move some of those poles."

Ralph Scarborough of Avon, long-time plant operator, said the diesel generators were dependable. However, there were outages.

"They should have buried the engines and put a headstone on them."

"If we were off for 30 minutes, that was a terrible thing," he said. "You could usually count on seven or eight fellows coming down to the plant to see what the problem was. Everyone would be looking over your shoulder."

As the Outer Banks grew, additions were made to the plant to house more generators. The building was expanded three times in the 1950s until it was large enough to house six generators.

During demolition of the old plant, John Brown, construction manager for NCEMC, said he found readable old newspapers from the 1950s stuffed in the cavities of the blocks.

The plant continued to operate until 1966, when the completion of the Bonner Bridge enabled Cape Hatteras EMC to link its system with a transmission line from North Carolina Power, then operating as Virginia Electric Power Company, to serve the area. Then, as now, it was less costly to purchase wholesale power than to run the diesel engines.

However, because of the increased cost of wholesale power during periods of peak usage, power from the new plants will be less expensive than energy purchased from other sources.

Last year, the old plant was demolished to make way for the new generating station, which is now nearing completion. The walls of the old plant were knocked down and the generators were scrapped—a fact that saddened a few folks who remembered when the diesel engines brought the Outer Banks its first electricity.

Said Rhoden: "They should have buried the engines and put a headstone on them."

Ocracoke Plant Tapped Again To Generate Emergency Power

A series of early morning tornadoes ripped through the Outer Banks in November, causing destruction and knocking out electric service to area residents—exactly two weeks after the Bonner Bridge accident also left them without power.

The tornadoes rolled through the townships of Frisco, Buxton and Avon on Friday, Nov. 9, destroying about 10 power poles—including a key transmission pole—according to Clifton Austin, manager of Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Buxton.

Austin said damage was so severe in some areas that power could not be fully restored until Monday, Nov. 12.

The Outer Banks area is served by a lone transmission line, which was damaged by the storm. That left the entire southern end of the island, and nearby Ocracoke Island, without power.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation's 3-megawatt Ocracoke Generating Station, which had provided power to the islands following the bridge incident, was once again put into emergency service to supply power to Ocracoke Island. The plant operated for almost nine hours on Saturday while the transmission line was being repaired.

Although the plant was built to operate only during peak demand periods, it supplied power for a full week after the bridge collapse.

A similar facility, a 15-megawatt plant in Buxton, is nearing completion and will also be available for limited use during emergency situations.

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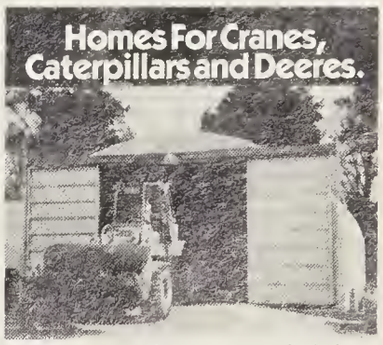

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Energy Agency Hosts 'EMC Day'

Officials representing Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) from across the state gathered recently at the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC) in Durham County. They toured the facilities to learn more about new technology designed to improve energy-efficiency in commercial and residential areas. The state's co-ops and other utilities provide funding to support AEC projects. During AEC's "EMC Day" tour, Frank Vigil, senior project manager at AEC, right, demonstrated an infrared camera, which can check the quality of insulation in houses and commercial buildings. From the left are Buddy Creed, director of operations and engineering at South River Electric Membership (EMC), Dunn; James Mangum, general manager of Wake EMC, Wake Forest and Bob Koger, executive director of AEC.

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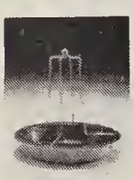

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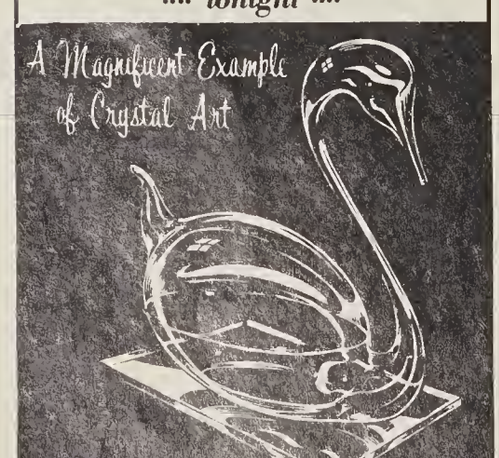

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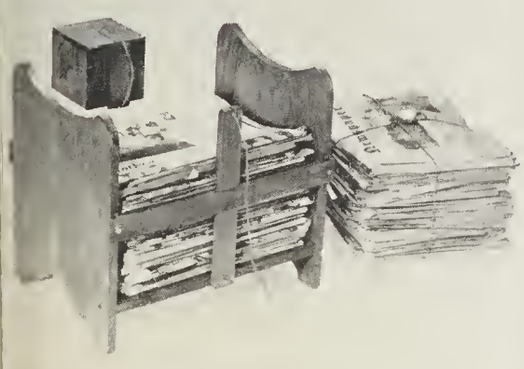

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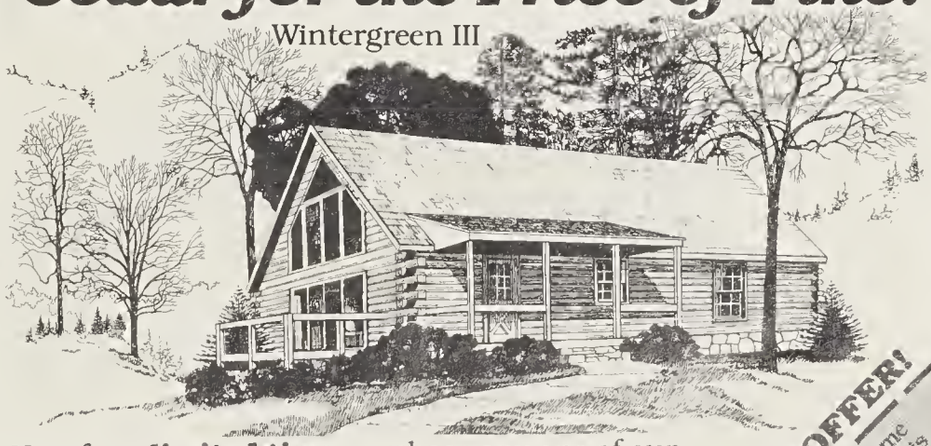

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Scholarship Program Would Pay Tribute To Jim Graham

Outstanding high school students will soon be eligible for an agricultural college scholarship if adequate funding is found. An initial $5 million goal has been set.

The James A. Graham Scholars program, named in honor of Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham, will be established in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

"We're trying to train tomorrow's leaders to be more aware of agriculture and its importance to North Carolina," said Graham, a 1942 graduate of NCSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Program organizers include the non-profit N. C. Agricultural Foundation, Inc., and the agricultural college.

Scholarship recipients, who would receive $3,000 awards renewable annually, would be required to augment their agriculture course work with work in either communications, public policy or journalism.

A $10,000 annual scholarship, the James A. Graham Graduate Fellowship, would be available for scholarship winners who complete undergraduate studies and opt for a journalism or law school of their choice, or take graduate level work in an agriculture curriculum at NCSU.

Keith Oakley, executive director of the Agricultural Foundation, said it might take two years to accumulate enough contributions to set up the scholarship.

"We hope to have at any one time between 40 and 50 scholarship students," he said, with several hundred participating in the high school program.

High school students, who are strong scholastically and plan a career in science and technology relevant to agriculture, would be eligible for the program. Participants would be enrolled in a special program covering preparatory high school curriculum, undergo leadership training and attend on-campus summer internships at N. C. State.

In addition, a summer program for selected high school teachers in sciences and vocational agriculture is envisioned.

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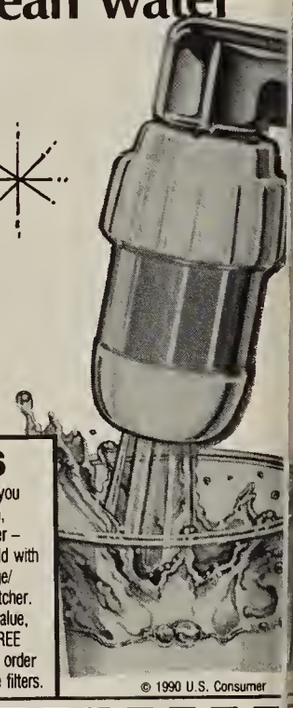

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At Fayetteville Meeting

Four Families Cited For Conservation Techniques

Conservation Farm Families of the Year were honored at the recent Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NACD) in Fayetteville.

The Clarence Loflin and Dennis Loflin farms in Davidson County were cited for being among the 10 national finalists in the 1990 National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation competition.

They were chosen from 49 state winners for using sound conservation techniques on their 600-acre swine and small grain farms.

Regional winners for North Carolina included:

Mountain: The Otto, Don and Phil Somers farm in Wilkes County.

Piedmont: James Anderson Family Farm, Caswell County.

Coastal Plain: Bobby and Cathy Jones Farm, Duplin County.

The Caldwell Soil and Water District won the Conservation Award of the National Association of Conservation Districts for teaching students and teachers about conservation at Tuttle Educational State Forest in Lenoir. Caldwell also won the Southeast regional competition.

The NACD "Teacher of the Year" for conservation education was Randee Haven-O'Donnell of Chapel Hill for her "garbology curriculum" on recycling.

Watershed Man of the Year was Joe Chavis of Robeson County, for his work on the 6,000-acre Moss Neck Watershed Project.

The Distinguished Service Award of the statewide association went to District Supervisor Willard Kimrey of Guilford County, for his work with city and county officials, teachers and farmers.

The Soil Conservation Service Employee of 1990 was Cecil Haynes, conservation technician with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in Caldwell County.

District Secretary of the Year was Nan Laughton of Chowan County, district secretary of the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District, for her educational and informational work with students and the public.

District Employee of the Year was Lonnie Faulkner of Pitt County, district soil conservation technician, for his work to improve water quality.

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	P/C	138.95	122.45	104.35
	F	265.50	234.10	199.55
30-34	I	108.85	96.05	81.85
	P/C	152.35	134.45	114.60
	F	284.55	250.95	213.85
35-39	I	115.65	102.05	86.95
	P/C	159.30	140.45	119.70
	F	287.30	253.30	215.90
40-44	I	119.90	105.65	90.05
	P/C	163.45	144.05	122.80
	F	288.65	255.10	217.45
45-49	I	122.55	108.05	92.10
	P/C	166.05	146.50	124.85
	F	291.15	256.90	218.95
50-54	I	125.30	110.45	94.15
	P/C	168.85	148.85	126.85
	F	295.45	260.50	222.05
55-59	I	149.80	132.05	112.55
	P/C	192.90	170.50	145.30
	F	315.80	278.50	237.40
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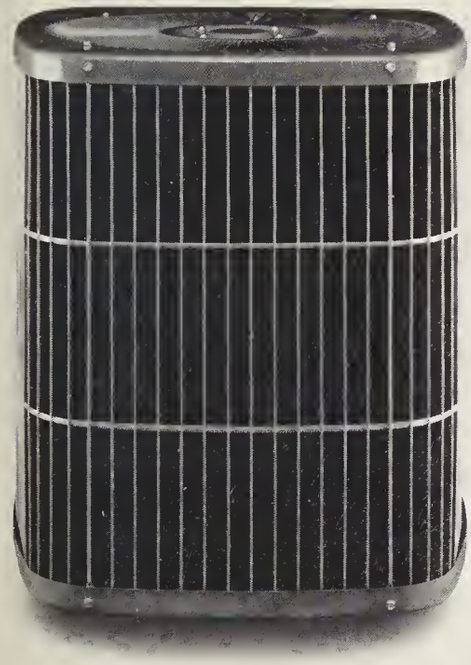

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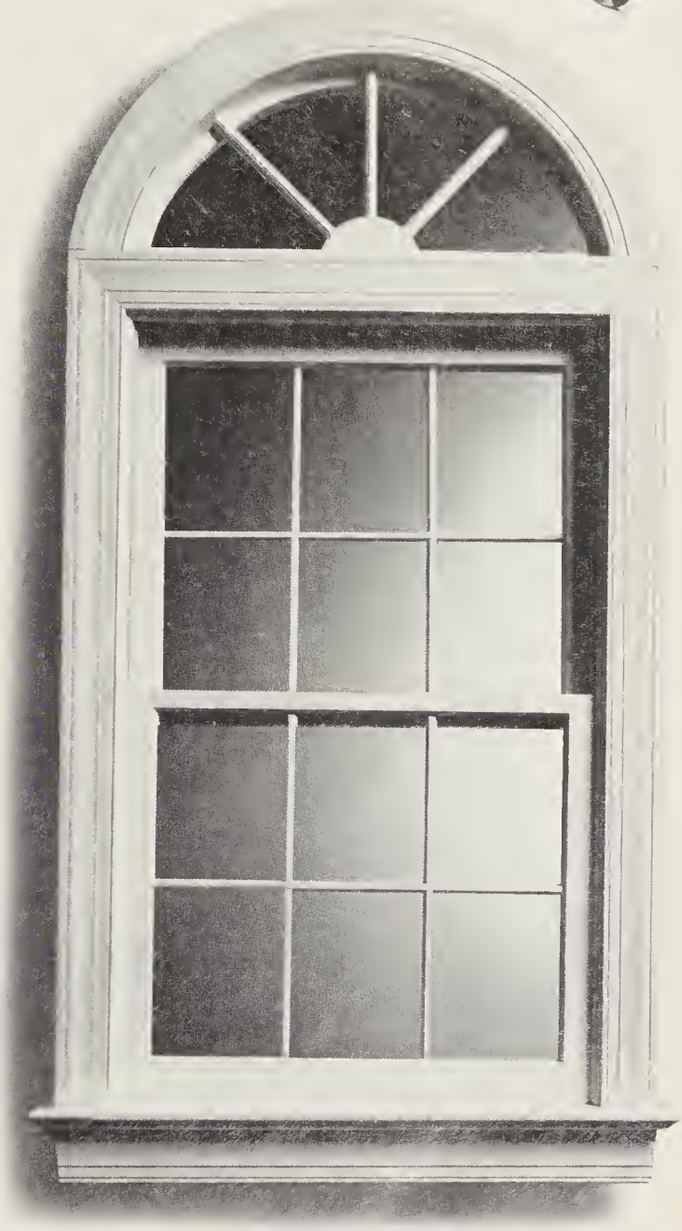

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Mill To Produce Feed For Catfish Industry

A new $6-million dollar Southern States feed mill, now under construction at Farmville, will be augmented by a $3 million facility dedicated to producing feed for North Carolina's fast-growing catfish industry.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham and Terry Ragsdale of Richmond, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Southern States, jointly announced plans for the project.

Robert A. Mayo of Ayden, president of Carolina Classics Catfish, is entering an agreement to use feed from the new facility beginning in 1992. Production will total 90,000 tons of feed per year per shift.

Graham, pointing out that North Carolina ranks sixth in the nation in aquaculture with production totalling $10 million, predicted that catfish "will be a billion dollar North Carolina industry in a few years."

Carolina Classics is the largest catfish processor in the entire mid-Atlantic region.

Southern States began its service in North Carolina five years ago, taking over the facilities of the FCX farm cooperative. By coincidence, Carolina Classics Catfish began operations at about the same time.

Today, North Carolina provides the co-op with a retail volume of $143 million a year, a substantial part of the cooperative's total volume of $879 million. Southern States also serves Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Kentucky from its Richmond headquarters.

Hybrid channel catfish, a far cry from the old-time "mud cat" of rivers and streams, is produced under controlled conditions in well-water ponds located on North Carolina farms. The new type of seafood is gaining in popularity, especially in restaurants, Mayo said. Carolina Classics now has 22 contract farms producing this new type of seafood.

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SOUTHERN STATES

Southern States Emblem Redesigned

New signs, featuring a background of red and dark blue, will soon begin identifying sales outlets of the Southern States Cooperative in North Carolina and five other states.

The new signs will represent the first major change in the co-op's emblem in 25 years. They will be installed over a period of several months in 1991.

Southern States operates a total of 60 retail outlets that sell farm and home supplies and manufacturing centers that produce feed and fertilizer.

It is the largest cooperative of its type in North Carolina, and also operates in Virginia (headquarters are in Richmond), Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Rolled Meat Loaf

Marlene Sherrill, Rt. 2, Elizabethtown

2 lbs. lean ground beef
2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
1 Tsp. salt
1/4 Tsp. pepper
4 slices ham (boiled)
1 C mashed potatoes
1/4 lb. mozzarella cheese, sliced
4 Tbsp. olive oil or Crisco oil
1 C tomato paste
1 C water
Bay leaf

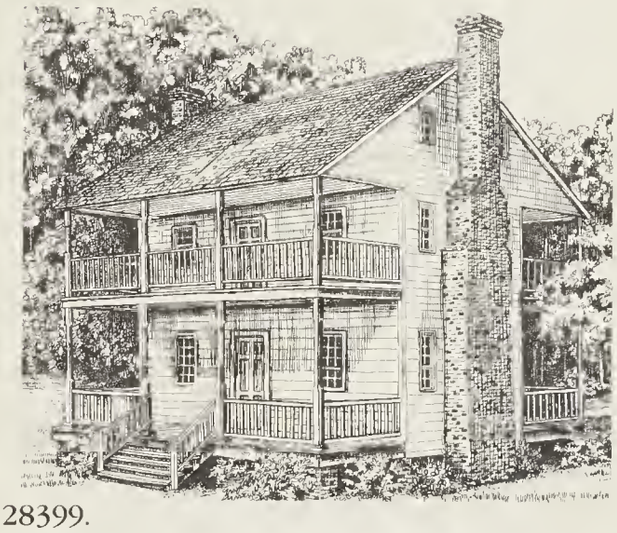
Mix together meat, parsley, salt and pepper. Turn meat mixture on a floured board and flatten meat in rectangular shape. Put ham slices on meat, then spread on the mashed potatoes and lay the slices of mozzarella on top. Roll up like a jelly roll and press edges closed. Heat 2 Tbsp. of oil in a large frying pan. Place meat loaf in pan and pour remaining oil over the meat. Cover fry pan and simmer for about 15 minutes. Mix tomato paste with water and bay leaf. Pour over meat loaf and simmer for about 1 hour. Remove loaf from pan and let stand 10 minutes before slicing. Serves four.

The recipe above is reprinted from the *rmony Hall Cookbook,* which is now avail-e in its second edition.

The spiral-bound book, which contains re than 250 pages and 200 recipes, is being l to raise money for the restoration of Har-ny Hall in Bladen County.

The house was built near White Oak around '0. The restoration work began in 1986, with the project now 80 percent complete.

The cookbook also contains numerous historical articles about the house and the surrounding area.



The volume is available for $11, including postage, and can be ordered from Harmony Hall Restoration Committee, Rt. 1, Box 83, White Oak, NC 28399.

In addition, an 11 by 14-inch black-and-white drawing of the house is also available for purchase by mail.

Drawn by Rose Kennedy of Fayetteville, the print is available for $20 and can be ordered from the address above.

Make checks payable to Harmony Hall Restoration Committee.

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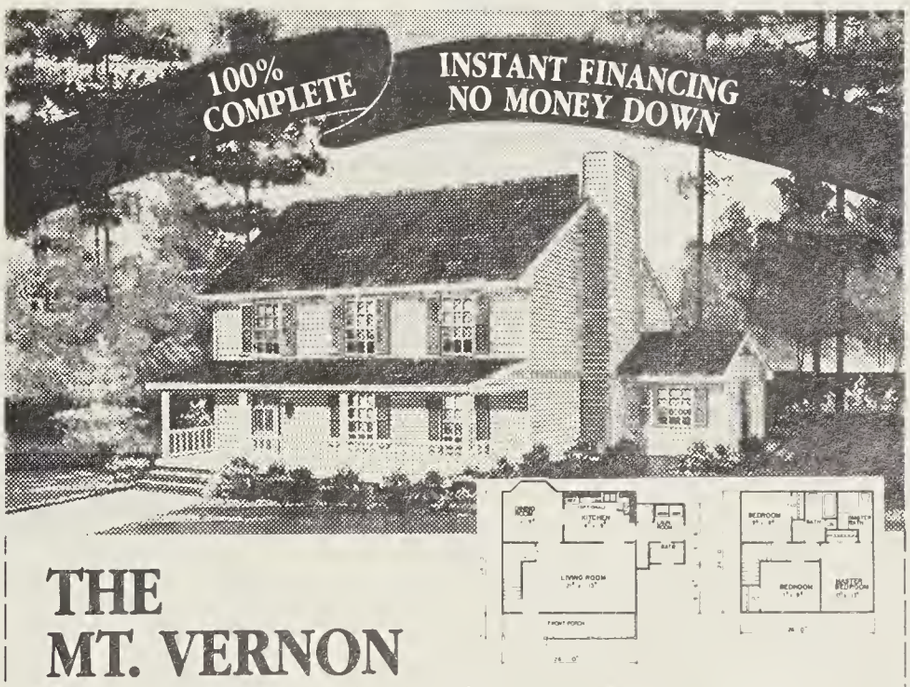

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58 Incumbents, 7 Newcomers Elected At 18 EMCs

A total of 58 incumbents and seven newcomers have been elected to the Boards of Directors of 18 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) in recent co-op annual meetings.

• **Blue Ridge EMC,** Lenoir—Directors re-elected were: James McNeil of Rt. 1, Ferguson; Martha McKnight of Sparta; G. C. Norris of Rt. 2, Boone and Thomas Cockerham of Jefferson. Officers for the coming year are: Johnnie Austin of Rt. 4, Boone, president; Thomas Cockerham, vice president; Charles A. Suddreth of Rt. 5, Lenoir, secretary-treasurer and John Woodruff of Sparta, assistant secretary-treasurer.

• **Randolph EMC,** Asheboro—Directors re-elected were: Bill Comer of Rt. 2, Seagrove; Bobby Wright of Rt. 1, Asheboro and Frank Kennedy of High Falls. Officers for the coming year are: Charles Teague of Rt. 1, Seagrove, president; Bobby Wright of Rt. 1, Asheboro, vice president and Larry Routh of Rt. 1, Franklinville, secretary-treasurer.

• **Pee Dee EMC,** Wadesboro—Directors re-elected were: Millard Russell of Rt. 2, Wadesboro; Richard Johnson of Rt. 4, Wadesboro; Benjamin McCallum of Rockingham and Craig Ratliff of Rt. 2, Rockingham. Officers for the coming year are: Richard Johnson, president; Charles Smith of Rt. 2, Laurel Hill, vice president and Millard Russell, secretary-treasurer.

• **Roanoke EMC,** Rich Square—Directors re-elected were: Matthew Grant of Tillery; Elton Trotman of Rt. 1, Hobbsville and Rascoe Gilliam of Rt. 1, Windsor. Officers for the coming year are: Henry Bennett of Rt. 1, Rich Square, president; Matthew Grant, vice president; Elton Trotman, secretary-treasurer and Rascoe Gilliam, assistant secretary-treasurer.

• **Haywood EMC,** Waynesville—Newly elected were Kenneth D. Israel of Rt. 3, Candler; Gene Francis of Waynesville and Rex Dillard of Lake Toxaway. They succeeded directors Lawrence Henson of Candler, who had served for 10 years; Barbara Cogburn of Clyde, who had served for three years and Charles Petit of Rosman, who had served for 12 years. Officers for the coming year are: John Rogers of Rt. 1, Clyde, president; Emmit Wood of Scaly Mountain, vice president and Joe Davis of Waynesville, secretary-treasurer.

• **Albemarle EMC,** Hertford—Directors re-elected were: L. A. Harris of Rt. 4, Elizabeth City; Estelle Felton of Rt. 2, Hertford and Billy R. Nixon of Rt. 1, Tyner. Officers for the coming year are: L. A. Harris, president; Garry Meiggs of Camden, vice president and Walter Lowry of Rt. 4, Elizabeth City, secretary-treasurer.

• **Central EMC,** Sanford—Directors re-elected were: James Springle of Rt. 1, Moncure and R. G. Wadsworth of Carthage. Newly elected was Rebecca Paschal of Sanford. She succeeds Thomas J. Wilson of Sanford, who moved out of the co-op's territory. He had served for three years. Officers for the coming year are: William C. Dalrymple of Sanford, president; Johnnie J. Chalmers of Rt. 2, Cameron, vice president and James B. Brooks of Rt. 2, Siler City, secretary-treasurer.

• **Carteret- Craven EMC,** Morehead City—Directors re-elected were: David Chadwick of Rt. 2, Beaufort and Nellie Cannon Garner of Newport. Newly elected was Jerome Meadows of Stella, who succeeds David Holt of Maysville, who chose not to fseek re-election. Holt had served for 15 years. Officers for the coming year are: R. W. Jones of Rt. 1, Newport, president; W. J. Wynne of Havelock, vice president; David M.

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Chadwick, secretary; Nellie Cannon Garner, assistant secretary and J. Henry Davis of Rt. 2, Newport, treasurer.

• **Cape Hatteras EMC,** Buxton—Directors re-elected were: Fred Neuman of Buxton; Ellis Gray of Avon and Jack Gray of Waves. Officers for the coming year are: Fred Neuman, president; Ellis Gray, vice president and Jack Gray, secretary-treasurer.

• **Crescent EMC,** Statesville—Directors re-elected were: Jack B. Wooten of Rt. 2, Cleveland; Jerry Anderson of Rt. 6, Mocksville; C. Edgar Cartner of Rt. 1, Harmony; Kenneth Westmoreland of Huntersville; Henry Gabriel of Sherrills Ford and Larry Payne of Rt. 3, Taylorsville. Officers for the coming year are: Jimmy Horton of Rt. 2, Cleveland, president; Shirley L. Johnson of Rt. 14, Statesville, vice president and Jerry Anderson, secretary-treasurer.

• **Davidson EMC,** Lexington—Directors re-elected were: Eston Stokes of Rt. 2, Linwood; B. Glenn Smith of Lexington and Charles Hedrick of Rt. 2, Lexington. Officers for the coming year are: Eston Stokes, president; N. Mack Shoaf of Rt. 16, Winston-Salem, vice president; W. Max Walser of Rt. 14, Lexington, secretary and C. Richard Watts of Rt. 1, Walnut Cove, treasurer.

• **Four County EMC,** Burgaw—Directors re-elected were: R. W. Blanchard of Rt. 1, Turkey; Iva Brinson of Rt. 1, Magnolia; Raymond Brown of Rt. 1, Chinquapin and Franklin Williams of Rt. 1, Wallace. Officers for the coming year are: R.W. Blachard, president; W. A. Settlemeyer of Rt. 1, Riegelwood, vice president and R. E. Pendergrass of Rt. 1, Harrells, secretary-treasurer.

• **Lumbee River EMC,** Red Springs—Directors re-elected were: Herbert Edwards of Maxton; Herbert Clark of Rt. 3, Laurinburg and Conrad Oxendine of Rt. 2, Maxton. Newly elected was Robert Lee Strickland of Rt. 1, Lumberton. He succeeds Bradford Oxendine of Rt. 4, Lumberton, who had served for 15 years. Officers for the coming year are: .W. Hunt of Rt. 1, Fairmont, president; James Dial of Rt. 1, Maxton, vice president; Madie Rae Locklear of Rt. 3, Maxton, secretary and John Elebee of Raeford, treasurer.

• **Rutherford EMC,** Forest City—Directors re-elected were: David McGimsey of Rt. 7, Morganton; John Wyant of Rt. 1, Vale; Roy Wilkins of Rt. 2, Columbus and Harold Oates of Rt. 1, Gastonia. Officers for the coming year are: Fred Mintz of Rt. 1, Lawndale, president; William Plonk of Rt. 3, Kings Mountain, vice president; Paul Dalton of Rt. 1, Lake Lure, ecretary and David McGimsey, treasurer.

• **Surry-Yadkin EMC,** Dobson—Directors re-elected were: Paul Cornelius of Rt. 2, East Bend; Garland Chilton of Mt. Airy and Grady Nichols of Mt. Airy. Officers for the coming year are: Ralph Beane of Rt. 1, tate Road, president; J. Olen Gentry of Rt. 1, Roaring River, vice president; Joe Pendry of Rt. 1, Boonville, secretary and Grady Nichols, reasurer.

• **Tideland EMC,** Pantego—Directors re-elected were Jimmy Burage of Rt. 1, Bath; W. B. Smithwick of Rt. 1, Blounts Creek and J. M. Woard of Rt. 6, Washington. Newly elected was Adrian Whorton of Merritt, who succeeds Carlton Muse. Muse was appointed earlier this year to fill he seat left vacant by the resignation of Earl Sadler of Lowland. Sadler had served on the board for 12 years. Officers for the coming year are: Jimmy Burbage, president; J. M. Woolard, vice president; J. Douglas Brinson of Arapahoe and W. B. Smithwick, treasurer.

• **Tri-County EMC,** Dudley—Directors re-elected were: Carl Kornegay of Albertson; C. C. Ivey of Rt. 2, Mt. Olive; Luther Carroll of Rt. 5, Mt. Olive and Roosevelt Taylor of Rt. 2, LaGrange. Officers for the coming year are: W. L. Scott of Rt 12, Goldsboro, president; Carl Kornegay, vice president; C. W. Smith of Rt. 2, Seven Springs, secretary and Roosevelt Taylor, treasurer.

• **Union EMC,** Monroe—Directors re-elected were: J. Grant Duncan of Rt. 1, Indian Trail; J. Ray Elfird of Rt. 4, Albemarle; Vann Hilton of Rt. 1, Marshville and Rufus Reid of Concord. Officers for the coming year are: Bruce Thompson of Charlotte, president; Boyd Haigler of Monroe, vice president and J. Grant Duncan, secretary-treasurer.

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North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

Woodrow's Trumpet by Tim McLaurin. W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1989. $17.95.

North Carolinians have always been proud of their state and the lifestyle it affords. As word of the state's attractions has spread, many "outsiders" have come to share communities with people whose families have been Carolina bred for generations. The epitome of this culture blending may well be Chapel Hill.

In *Woodrow's Trumpet,* Orange County's Tim McLaurin tells what happens in tiny Oak Hill when such a blending leads to the growth that sprawls into rural tobacco country.

Woodrow Bunce has always been considered less than bright and rather crazy. He carries no gun when he hunts, but his pack of baying hounds and loud trumpet blasts wake everyone in Oak Hill. No one, however, thought he'd be so insane as to invite the whole community—black and white, Yankee newcomers and hometown folk—to a watermelon feast and pig pickin.' Woodrow stirs up a scandal with the traditional Oak Hill natives when he takes up with a guest: Nadean, a young black woman who is recovering from heroin addiction.

Mary Stewart, a Yankee who lives next door, champions the couple. Southern attitudes seem barbaric to her. Yet she learns that Woodrow and Nadean are just as barbaric as the people who ostracized them. They build a swimming pool in their front yard and import sand to make a beach—complete with pink flamingos and a coconut palm.

Since Mary is convinced such an eyesore will reduce property values, she starts a campaign for a building code. The conflicts over this issue quickly escalate.

McLaurin's novel is often funny, and has enough plot twists and turns to keep readers guessing about what will happen. However, he is at his best with characterization, showing us the dreams and fears that motivate each character.

People in Oak Hill are used to thinking in labels—Vietnam vet, college professor, good ole boy, Yankee.

Only Woodrow is "crazy" enough to see beyond the labels. Nadean begins to understand just how out of step with the real world Woodrow is when she discovers that the only mirror in his house is a small hand mirror he uses when he shaves. Nadean's goal becomes learning to live in a world without mirrors.

"Everything gets turned backwards when you look at life in a mirror," Nadean realized. "Folks see things turned around, see it from the wrong side. They don't see the real you."

Woodrow's Trumpet shows the tragedy and futility of living in the world of reversed mirror images. McLaurin's insights into some of the ways people divide themselves may help to smash a few mirrors for his readers—just as Woodrow's trumpet blasts shatter the still nights in Oak Hill.

—Phyllis Hacken Johnson

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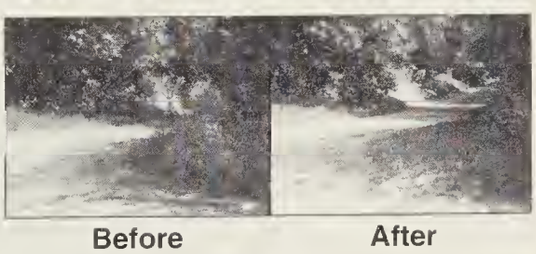
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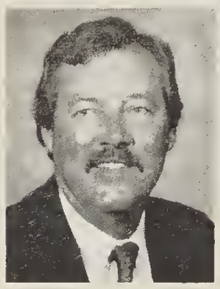
McDuffie On National Study Panel

Bob McDuffie, executive vice president and general manager of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) Asheboro, has been named to a national rural electric committee that will examine the current and future health of co-op financing.



McDuffie, who represents North Carolina on the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), was named to a special ad hoc committee appointed by John Williams, NRECA board president.

Williams said the committee will look at "methods and alternatives for financing rural electric cooperatives," for both the short and long term.

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the federal lending agency to co-ops, and the cooperative-owned National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) currently provides financing for co-op projects.

However, federal budget cutbacks and the tightening of the credit market have forced co-ops to examine future financing options to maintain quality service for their member-consumers.

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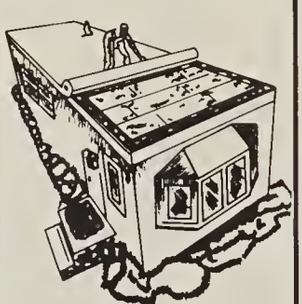

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A BIRDHOUSE FABLE

Bluebirds Struggle To Keep Comeback Alive

This is the first installment in a two-part eries describing the life cycle of the Eastern Bluebird. The stories, aimed at both children nd adults, also dramatize the bluebirds' onstant struggle for survival and their need or protection. The stories were written by leyward H. McKinney, who retired as man-ger of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corpora-ion (EMC), Wadesboro, in 1981, after serving n the post for 35 years. He began his career n the rural electric program at Pee Dee EMC n 1940. At the co-op he wrote regularly for its onsumer newsletter.

In a 1984 Carolina Country *story, he rote about an incident involving a bluebird amily that nested in his backyard birdhouse.*

Part I

Let me introduce you to a friend of mine who's an Eastern Bluebird. We'll call him Blue kye because of his beautiful color.

If my friend could write, I believe he'd ant to help you understand how harsh lother Nature can be on his species—and ow important it is for people to help these irds find shelter from the elements and pro-ction from predators.

These birds, known by the Latin name, *ialia Sialis,* are found nowhere in the world utside Central and North America. Two elated species, the Western Bluebird and the lountain Bluebird, are found only in Western ates.

Here's how my friend Blue Skye might escribe his life upon leaving his home to ttle down on his own:

"I thought striking out on my own would e a great adventure but it was a bit scary, too. hen the time came for me to make a new me and attract a mate, I told Mother and addy goodbye and took off to begin life on y own.

"Daddy always told me that I should find nice open space with short grass—a pasture, golf course, or a big lawn that has a bird-use on it. If I could set up housekeeping in lace like that, he said, I wouldn't have to nt for a wife; one would soon find me. I lieve that's the way bluebirds have been attracting mates for hundreds of years.

"As I flew across Piedmont North Carolina, I happened upon such a place not far from a sign that said, 'Anson County, Bluebird Kingdom of the World.' It's a fairly large lawn and has a power line across it. I can perch on that wire and watch for worms and insects. With my good eyes, I can see a measuring worm a hundred yards away. There is a birdbath in the yard and, best of all, there is a birdhouse located on a post at the edge of the yard.

"The birdhouse is about five and a half feet above the ground and has a one-and-one-half-inch opening that's perfectly placed exactly six inches above the floor of the birdhouse. It measures four inches by four inches inside—exactly the size we bluebirds like best. It's my guess that this bird condo was placed here by a human who loves bluebirds. I'm sure glad it's here."

Skye said the biggest problem here would be competition from other cavity-nesting birds who are also looking for places to build nests: the wren family, the Carolina chickadees, the titmice, the martins, the flycatchers and some members of the swallow family.

"I don't mind competing with any of these birds for a place to build a nest," he continued, "because they are all native birds. But I think it's a shame that we have to compete with those pesky immigrant birds, the English sparrow and the starling. They've taken just about all of the natural nesting places, making it hard for us native birds to find a good place to nest. It seems that at some time way back, a human from England came over here to live. He got so homesick for England that he wrote a friend back home, asking for a pair of English sparrows and a pair of starlings to be shipped to him. Well, you know the rest.

"Between them, English sparrows and the starlings are now taking over the country. We used to find lots of nesting spots in knot holes in fence posts and holes in orchard trees and the [illegible] for the [illegible] (continued)

A BIRDHOUSE FABLE

Bluebirds Struggle *(Continued from page 33)*

fewer family orchards, fewer wooden fence posts and, of course, fewer nesting cavities. The sparrows and starlings grab most of the natural cavities that are available.

"A few years back, the bluebird species was almost wiped out completely because of this problem and the widespread use of the poison DDT. The DDT killed the insects that we depended on for food and sometimes the poison would kill us, too.

"Also, since bluebirds in North Carolina don't migrate in the winter like many birds do, sometimes real cold weather can take a toll—especially when ice or snow has covered all the berries. But now that DDT is no longer used, and many humans often provide birdhouses for us, we are making a strong comeback. And that's just fine with me.

"Thanks to my good fortune in finding this lovely spot in Anson County, I can declare it as my territory without worrying about starlings. They will be no threat because they're too big to get in the opening in this birdhouse. The English sparrows may be a problem, but I'll do my best to run them off. In the meantime, I hope a good looking, young female bluebird will take notice of what I have to offer and be willing to become my mate."

Skye began singing as loud as he could from his perch on the power line, telling the world that this yard was now his territory. A lovely little female bluebird soon joined him on the wire, and the courtship was on. She loved his house and before long, they had declared themselves mates.

In keeping with bluebird custom, Blue Skye continued to proclaim that his territory and his house were occupied while Azure, his mate, started building a nest of pine needles. The male bluebird protects the territory and the female builds the nest. They use pine needles if they are available. If not, they make do with dry grass.

Blue Skye had a couple of run-ins with a sparrow who tried to claim the house.

He said, "I'm happy to say that after I made a pass or two at him he moved on. That sure made me feel better. I had an uncle once who was killed by a sparrow that tried to claim my uncle's house. Those sparrows can be rough."

Azure finished the nest in about three days and a few days later, she laid her first egg. She laid one greenish-blue egg each day for five days. Then, she began a 14-day incubation period. She would leave the nest only briefly to get a bite to eat. Blue Skye often brought her food so she wouldn't have to leave the nest."

On the 14th day of incubation, Azure became very excited.

"Skye," she cried, "our babies have arrived."

Skye was beside himself. He flew down to the box and looked at his offspring. Although he was bursting with pride, he was disappointed by what he saw. The little ones had not yet opened their eyes and they looked like five little grub worms.

"Aren't they beautiful?" chirped Azure.

"I've never seen a prettier bunch of babies," Skye said. "Of course, I've never seen any baby bluebirds before. What shall we name them?"

"Well," said Azure, "there are three boy babies and two girl babies. You name the boys and I'll name the girls."

"That's fair enough," said Skye. "I think I'll name this one, Freddie; this one, Steady and this one, Eddie."

"Oh, I like all of those names," said Azure. "And I'll name this one, Clara and this one, Farra."

The next task was to provide food for the babies. Skye and Azure had to be very selective in the kind of insects they brought to the little ones, first offering only small, soft insects that were easily swallowed and easily digested. As the babies grew larger, they could eat larger insects and more of them. They had tremendous appetites.

The parents soon learned that they must feed their children in order, taking care of the hungriest first. When the babies begged for food, it would be clear that one of the babies opened his mouth just a little wider than the others and begged just a little harder.

In a few days, the babies opened their eyes. They were growing like crazy. As they got older it became a full-time job for both Skye and Azure to keep them all fed.

After about 17 days, the tiny creatures had become bright-eyed, fully-feathered little bluebirds who were beginning to wonder what might be outside their cozy nest. And they soon found out.

When the birds were 18 days old, Skye said, "So you want to leave the nest, do you? That's fine, but you are not yet ready to make it out there on your own. We will let you leave the nest, but you must do as we say when you get out there in the big, wide world.

"All right, who wants to be first to test his wings?"

"Let me, let me!" cried Freddie.

"Very well," said Skye, "there's a tree over there about 40 yards away. I'll go over there

A BIRDHOUSE FABLE

ınd when I call you, I want you to fly to me. Don't leave the nest until I call you. There night be cats or snakes out there, and if you lon't make it to the tree, you could be a goner."

Skye flew quickly to the tree across the ard. He looked all around carefully for any ats, dogs or snakes in the area. When he saw one, he called Freddie to fly to the tree.

Freddie hopped up to the entrance to he nest and looked out.

"My goodness," he said, "I had no idea he world was so big."

"Don't just sit there!" kye sternly warned Fredlie. "You'll have time for ll of that later. Right now want you to fly over here o me. Remember, just flap our wings and you will be ble to stay in the air. When you get to the tree, rab hold of a limb and hang on."

Relying on what his father had told him nd his natural instincts, Freddie jumped into ne air and started flapping his wings, and just ke that, he was flying.

He was elated. "This is fun!" he thought s he glided toward the tree. "Why, I could go ven farther if I needed to."

When he reached the tree, he soon arned that grabbing a limb was not as easy as looked. As a matter of fact, he missed the rst time and flew by the tree. His natural ıstincts, however, told him how to turn ound and fly back to the tree.This time he abbed a twig and hung on.

"Good boy," said Skye, "you handled that al well. Now just hang on to that limb until e others join us."

Then, one by one, Clara, Farra, Eddie and eady followed their brother's example to nture out for the first time into the wide, ide world.

"Now, let's all fly over to that grove of ne trees," said Skye. "We'll be safer there. ur mother and I will continue to bring you od for about two more weeks. Sooner or er, though, you're going to have to take care yourselves."

For the next two weeks both Skye and Azure brought food for the little ones, except they weren't so little any more. They were almost as big as their parents. They were getting stronger and their flying improved each day.

"You kids are going to eat us out of house and home," Skye would say, but he was really proud as a peacock of his fine family.

At the end of two weeks, Azure said to Skye, "If you will continue looking after the kids and teach them how to find food for themselves, I'll go lay another clutch of eggs. With a little luck, we can raise three broods during this nesting season."

"That sounds like a winner to me," said Skye. "I hope our 'somebody' has removed the old nest so you can build a new one. If they haven't, just build a new one on top of the old one. Daddy told me we shouldn't use an old nest again because germs, mites or lice could be in it, and that could cause problems for the next set of babies."

"Here's something else you need to remember. Be on the lookout for shrubs and trees that have berries that you can eat during the winter months. There will be no worms and insects then, so you will have to live on berries."

With that, Azure returned to their birdhouse and was pleased to find that their "somebody" had removed the old nest. She started work immediately on a new nest, completing it in just a few days. She started laying an egg a day and in five days had another nest full of eggs. Then she once again began the 14 days of incubation needed to hatch the eggs.

In the meantime, Skye had begun his task of teaching the little ones how to fend for themselves.

"All right, listen up, kids," he commanded. "It's time you found out that life is not just a bed of roses, and that your parents are not going to feed you all your life. You've got to learn how to catch your own food. You need to learn how important it is to know your enemies and to watch out for them. You must learn how to catch insects.

"Now, there are two ways you can catch insects. You can find a good perch and sit there while you watch closely for the movement of any worms or insects in the grass below. When you see something, don't hesitate, go get him right away. But, don't eat him there. Take him back up to your perch. You can't afford to stay on the ground for very long because cats are everywhere and can pounce on you before you know it.

"There's another way you can catch insects. You can just catch them in the air as they fly by. But, you've got to be quick or your meal will be gone.

"Here's something else you need to remember. Be on the lookout for shrubs and trees that have berries that you can eat during the winter months. There will be no worms and insects then, so you will have to live on berries.

(Continued on page

A BIRDHOUSE FABLE

Bluebirds Struggle *(Continued from page 35)*

"There are lots of berries you'll like—dogwood, holly, pyracantha, sumac, Virginia creeper and others. You need to locate the berry trees and shrubs now so you will know where to look for them when winter comes.

"You'll also want to find the berries you can eat in the summer and fall. You must learn to recognize them—blackberries, elderberries, blueberries, pokeberries, chokeberries, wild cherries and several others. Remember, these are in addition to the worms and insects that will still be around during the summer and fall.

"There is one other thing. Quite often, you can find bugs and insects in the roads, where they have been hit by those big cars and trucks. Before you fly down to get one of those bugs, be sure you look in both directions. That traffic moves fast and it can kill you before you can bat an eye. And don't forget, there could always be a cat ready to pounce on you. Okay, let's go get something to eat. Just watch me and do what I do.

Skye flew to the power line, with the youngsters gliding behind him. From their perch. they surveyed the grass below for inchworms, grasshoppers, moths and other insects. And pretty soon the children were finding and catching food on their own, just the way Skye had taught them.

Next Month: Tragedy strikes, demonstrating to the young birds how important it is to have a "someone" who'll help protect them. Also, where you can write for more information about helping bluebirds keep their comeback alive.

Trip To Europe

Sampson County Youth Gets National FFA Honor

Erick Herring of Lakewood High School n Roseboro captured the Fiber Crop Produc- ion category at the 63rd Annual Future 'armers of America National Convention ecently in Kansas City, MO.

As the national winner, Herring will ravel to Europe this summer with other FFA ational winners on an educational trip.

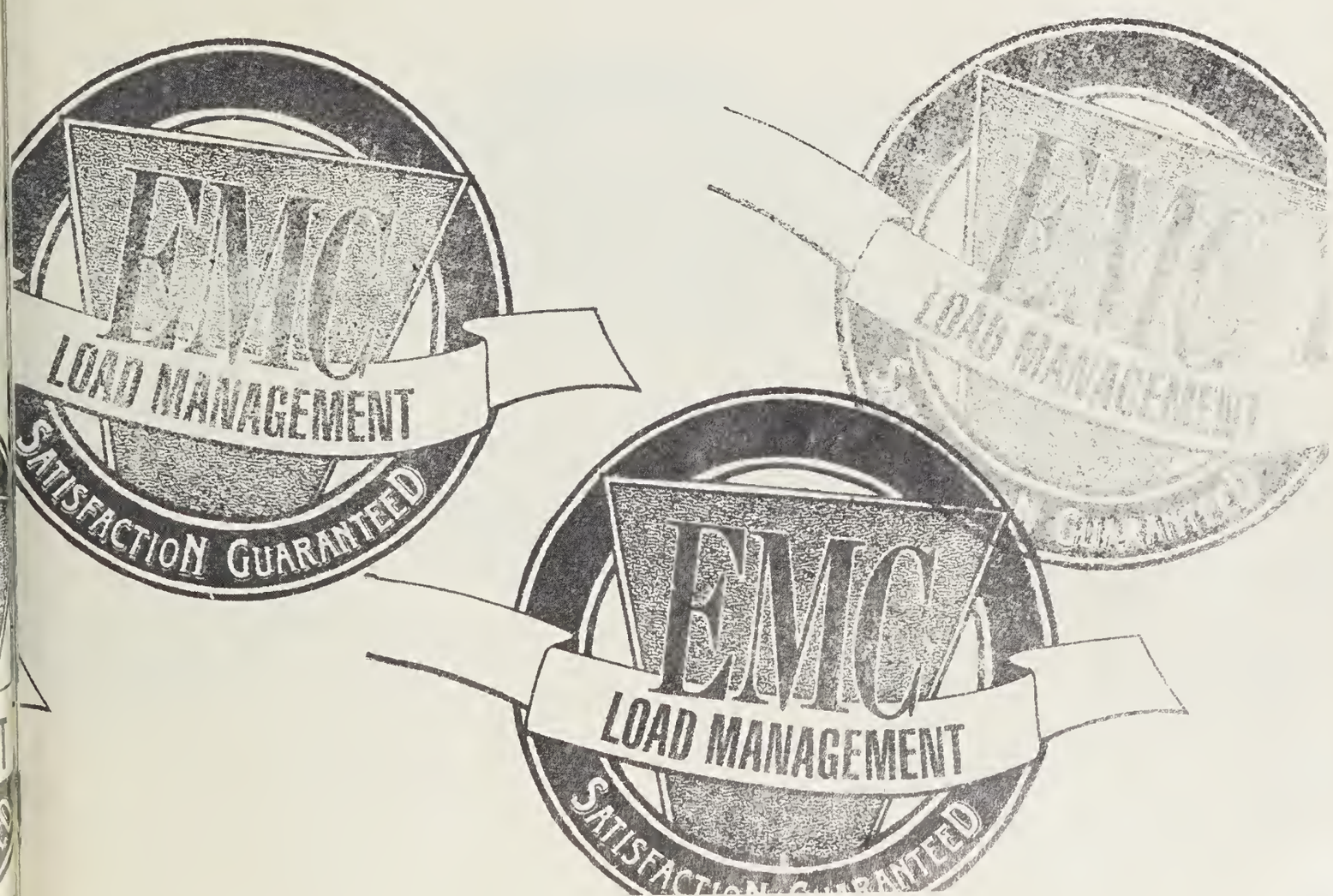
About 350 North Carolina FFA members ttended the national convention.

Five North Carolina FFA members were amed Eastern Regional winners and were nalists in the National Agricultural Pro- ciency Awards: Richie Herman from Alex- nder Central High School, diversified live- stock production; Bobby Jackson from Midway High School, diversified crop production; George Scott from Bartlett-Yancey High School, forage crop production and Wayne Elmore from South Iredell High School, forest management.

Seven Tar Heel FFA chapters were honored in the National Chapter Awards Program: North Iredell, Piedmont, Sun Valley, West Carteret, Forest Hills, West Montgomery and Williams Township.

Another seven North Carolina chapters were recognized in the National Chapter Safety Awards Program: Mountain Heritage, Piedmont, Sun Valley, East Montgomery, Princeton, South Lenoir and West Montgomery.

In addition, seven North Carolina chapters were recognized in the Building Our American Communities Program: Southern Guilford, Camden, Mount Pleasant, North Iredell, Northeastern, Princeton and Southern Wayne.



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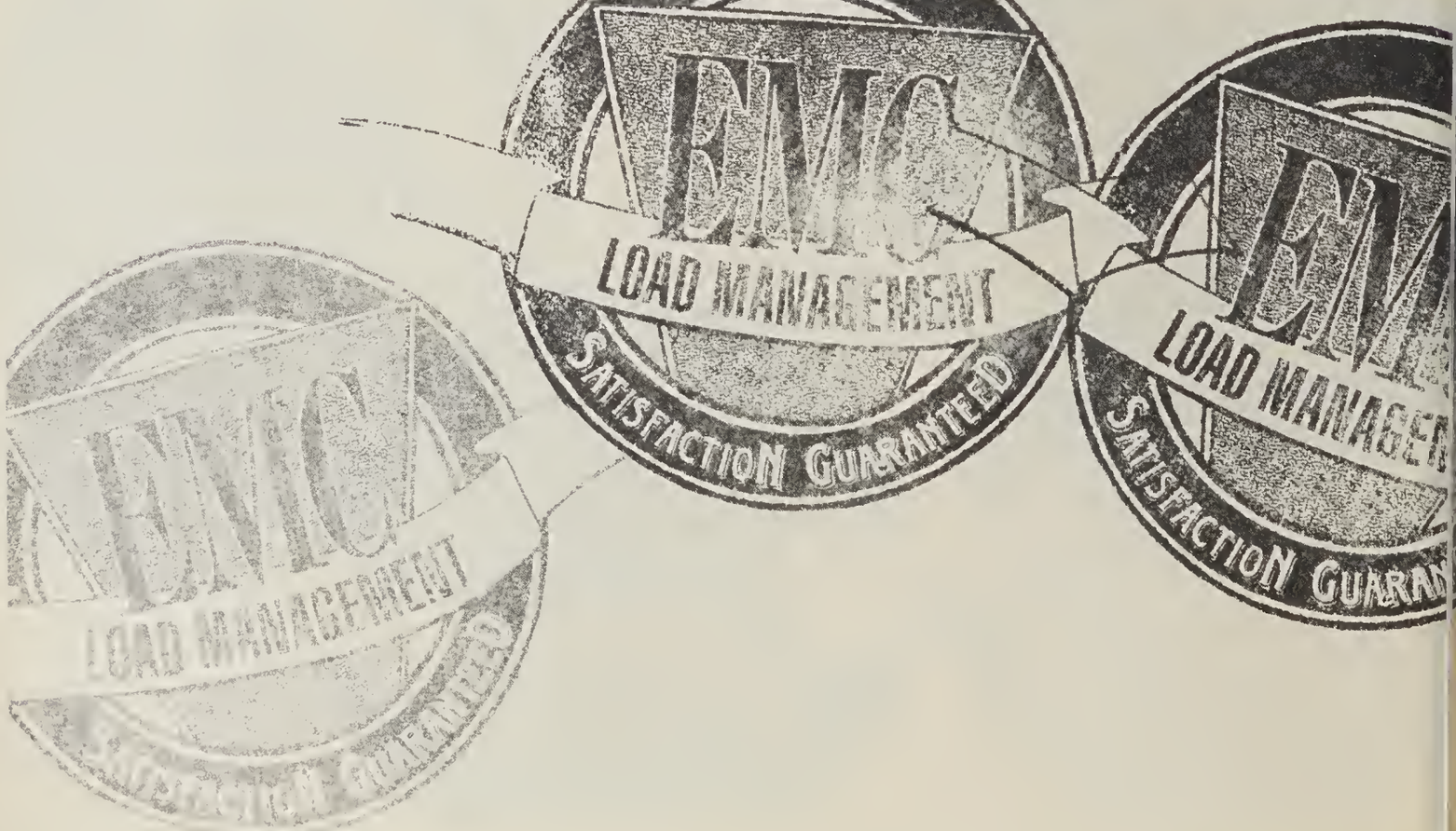
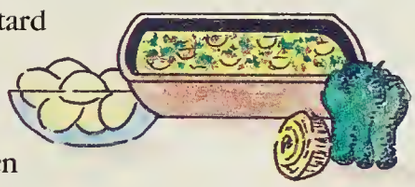


COUNTRY KITCHEN

Egg Casserole Supreme

Submitted by Nikki Bailey, Liberty



6 hard-cooked eggs
2 tsp. prepared mustard
3 tbsp. sour cream
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. margarine
1/2 C chopped green pepper
1/3 C chopped onion
1/4 C chopped pimento
1 can (10 1/2 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup
3/4 C sour cream
3/4 C shredded cheddar cheese

Cut eggs in half, lengthwise. Remove yolks. Mash the yolks with mustard, 3 tbsp. sour cream and salt. Over low heat melt the margarine and saute' until tender the green pepper and onion. Stir in the pimento, mushroom soup and 3/4 C sour cream. Pour 1/2 the hot mixture into a 1 1/2 qt. baking dish. Arrange eggs cut-side up in a single layer on top of soup mixture in dish. Pour remaining hot mixture over the eggs. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. (Casserole may be assembled and refrigerated until ready to bake.)

Would You Like To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country,* P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

By Hank Smit

We're in the dormant season for plants. It's time to prune deciduous trees, shrubs and vines. Now's a good time to apply dormant sprays to control insects.

You'll want to keep burlap, cardboard or plastic handy to protect tender plants during severe cold snaps.

During cloudy and dreary days, keep in mind that spring is only a few weeks (not months) away.

Fertilize Pansies

Make a light application of a complete fertilizer to pansy plants. Apply a pound of 8-8-8 or similar analysis per 100 square feet of bed. Repeat the application every four to six weeks.

Shrubs For Shady Spots

Only a limited number of shrubs are adapted to growth in shade. You will have average success by growing abelia in a shady location. Kurume azalea is a relatively low-growing type which will thrive on only a few hours of sunshine daily.

Yaupon will grow in a shady spot, although it prefers some sunshine. Mahonia will grow in a shady location. Aucuba (Gold Dust) demands shade.

Fall And Winter Drought Damage

If your area has suffered an extremely dry period, there's a good chance that the lack of rainfall has played havoc with many broadleaf evergreens. This is especially true of those that have not been kept well watered. Dryness sets plants up for some hard licks from cold, drying winds in the next few weeks.

It is advisable to soak the roots thoroughly to protect the plants from excessive winter damage. When the weather is cold it is easy to forget that plants are in need of moisture. Newly set trees and shrubs especially need watering to be certain they receive enough moisture.

Too Deep—Too Bad!

We're in the midst of winter planting of shrubs. A word of caution: one of the easiest ways to reduce future growth of shrubs—or even kill them—is to plant deeper than they originally grew in the nursery. Almost all common ornamentals can be affected.

Example: Too deep a planting of azaleas and camellias is a major reason for poor growth. When planted too far beneath the soil line, some shrubs produce a root system on the underground stem that is not at the proper level to support a healthy top growth. It is possible to re-set shrubs at the proper level. Do this now, while plants are dormant.

When setting shrubs, be sure to firm soil in the bottom of the planting hole. This helps prevent sinking. Always set the plant so the top of the ball of earth is level with or slightly above the surrounding soil.

House Plant Care

The major causes of death of house plants during winter months are: overwatering, underwatering and improper light. It's best to water when the soil is dry to the touch of the fingers. Pots without drainage holes will require water less frequently than those with holes. If the soil becomes completely dry, place pots in the sink for a thorough soaking.

Very few living plants will survive in a dark corner of a room, although some require less light than others.

Keep fertilizer to a minimum. It can promote spindly growth during these less-than-ideal conditions.

Flowering potted plants, such as mums and poinsettias, should receive as much sunlight as possible. Keep the soil only slightly moist and avoid exposing the plants to any sudden changes in temperature.

Forcing Blooms

For an early "breath of spring" it's fun to force blooms of some of the spring flowers. Cut and place a few branches of forsythia, apple or pussy willow in a deep container of water. Keep in a warm room. They'll soon be forced into bloom—giving you spring flowers several weeks before they're blooming in your yard.

Prune These Soon

Shrubs that flower in late summer should be pruned during the dead of winter. Among these are crepe myrtle, vitex, althea, oleander, eleagnus and buddleia. Buddleia can be cut back severely to within a few inches of the ground if the plant is badly overgrown.

Prune Nandinas

Now's the time to prune multi-stemmed shrubs such as nandinas. Prune by thinning from within the plant, cutting away about a third of the tallest

canes or stems. The rest should be cut away to the ground level.

Such pruning helps to develop fuller, more compact plants

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

hrub And ree Planting

Near the top of the st of garden chores t this time is that of lanting trees and nrubs. This chore ontinues to be in the p priority class as ng as these plants emain dormant—us-ally until late in the inter. Plant all types f deciduous and vergreen shrubs and ees.

Should you want uriety, try hollies. Different types range in height from about three feet to 60 feet. Foliage varies from broad and showy to small and fine-textured. Hollies bear berries that are red, black or yellow. The shiny green leaves of hollies make an all winter-long contrast to plants that are bare of leaves until spring.

Plant trees and shrubs anytime the ground is not frozen.

Start Seed When Soil Is Workable

As soon as soil is workable, seeds of sweet alyssum, calendula and other hardy annuals can be sown in the garden.

From now until April, you can start vegetables, annuals and perennials indoors. This can give a head start on the season. Cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower should be started first as they go into the garden the earliest. Start begonia, hollyhock, parsley, alyssum, ageratum, snapdragon and geranium. In March or early April, sow heat-loving summer flowers such as zinnia, marigold and petunia.

Check-out Landscape Plantings

Look over your landscape plantings to see if any plants have grown too large for the spot where they were planted and need to be moved.

Also, check to see if other plants need to be thinned, pruned, or even removed. Some may no longer fulfill their intended purpose in the landscape theme.

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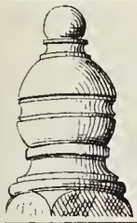

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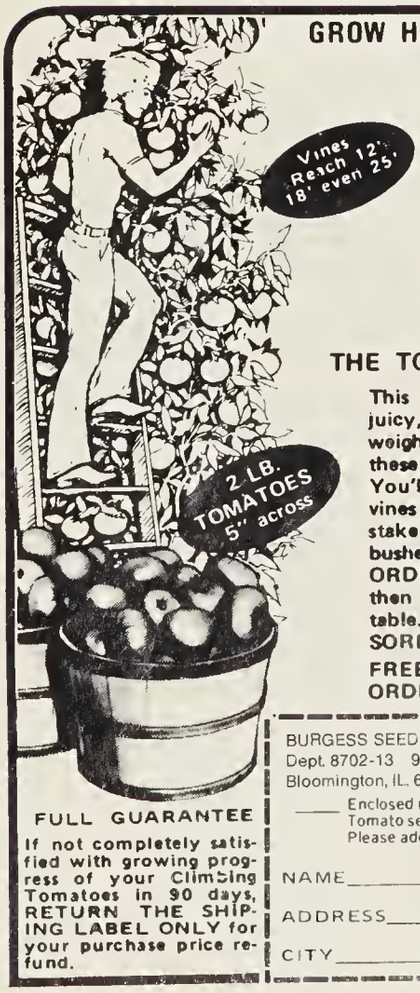

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Cruzan Case Stirs Interest In "Living Wills"

The "Living Will" concept has become a hot topic of conversation among older North Carolinians in recent months. Some attention has resulted from the recent rulings in regard to Nancy Cruzan of Missouri, who died Dec. 27 after eight years in a coma.

The 33-year-old woman had been kept alive in what was described as "a vegetative state" following severe injuries in an automobile accident. She never regained consciousness, and her hospitalization costs exceeded $300,000 a year as she was fed through a tube.

Preparing a Living Will eases both emotional and financial burdens that often face people when someone is virtually deceased, but is being kept alive by extraordinary means.

When her parents requested permission to cease feeding their daughter, a state court refused. On appeal, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld the decision. It ruled that unless a terminally ill person "has left clear and convincing evidence" that "extraordinary means" of life support should not be used, life supports must be continued.

In November, the Cruzans returned to the Missouri court with several of Nancy's former co-workers, who testified that she had told them she never wanted to live "like a vegetable." The judge granted permission for the family to disconnect the tube that supplied Nancy with food and water. She died 12 days later.

For North Carolinians who want to avoid this kind of situation in their own lives, the option of a "Living Will" is applicable.

The North Carolina Medical Society has endorsed "death with dignity" and urged people to consider a Living Will, a medical directive and a durable power of attorney governing their own lives. And North Carolina Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg frequently mentions Living Wills, and legal requirements for using them, in public addresses in the state. North Carolina was one of the first states to approve such documents.

The law covering these wills is based on the right of any individual to control decisions about his or her own medical care. This includes the decision that extraordinary medical means should not be used to prolong life if their condition is clearly terminal.

The form designed for use in North Carolina has the heading: "Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death."

The document shows the county you live in, gives the full name of the individual making the Living Will. It is signed and dated in the presence of two individuals who are not related to the signer and who will not inherit anything from the signer. The document is also sworn to before an officer of the Clerk of Superior Court or before a Notary Public, where the certificate is also dated. This procedure makes the Living Will a legal document.

A Living Will is not a wish to have any and all medical attention withheld after you reach a certain age or a certain state of health. In fact, you can say that you want all emergency measures put into use, perhaps for 24 or 48 hours or for a longer period.

You can also write in instructions that your pain be eased, perhaps using strong med cations or medical practices. Hospitals normally do this as a matter of course.

In summary, you can make your "Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death" exactly what you want it to be.

You also have the privilege of informing your personal phys cian of your viewpoint verbally, and many people have done this You can inform your immediate family, who will communicate with doctors serving you.

But the Living Will is perhaps the most clear-cut of all.

You need to know requirements of Livin Wills in North Carolina. Dates, signatures and witnesses are just part of the plan.

You'll also need one original (the legally signed one) and several copies, for the use of your nearest of kin. You might even prepare a small card to carry on your person, saying you have prepared a Living Will.

If you have also signed a Power of Attorney, be sure to give a copy to your attorney-in fact (not necessarily a lawyer), the person yo have authorized to act on your behalf. Give a copy to your doctor.

Suppose you fill out a Living Will, and then decide to revoke it? That's easy: just tear up all the copies you have prepared, tell your doctor and close kin that you've changed you mind, and the Living Will is no more. If you want another one later, you start all over agai

Where can people in North Carolina ge a draft copy of a Living Will? Most county ba associations have them, and will be happy to provide a copy at no charge. Many agencies serving older folks also have the draft form. Another source would be the Agricultural Extension Service offices across the state.

Preparing a Living Will eases both emo tional and financial burdens that often face people when someone is virtually deceased, but is being kept alive by extraordinary means.

It's something you might want to think about—whether you're 19 or 90.

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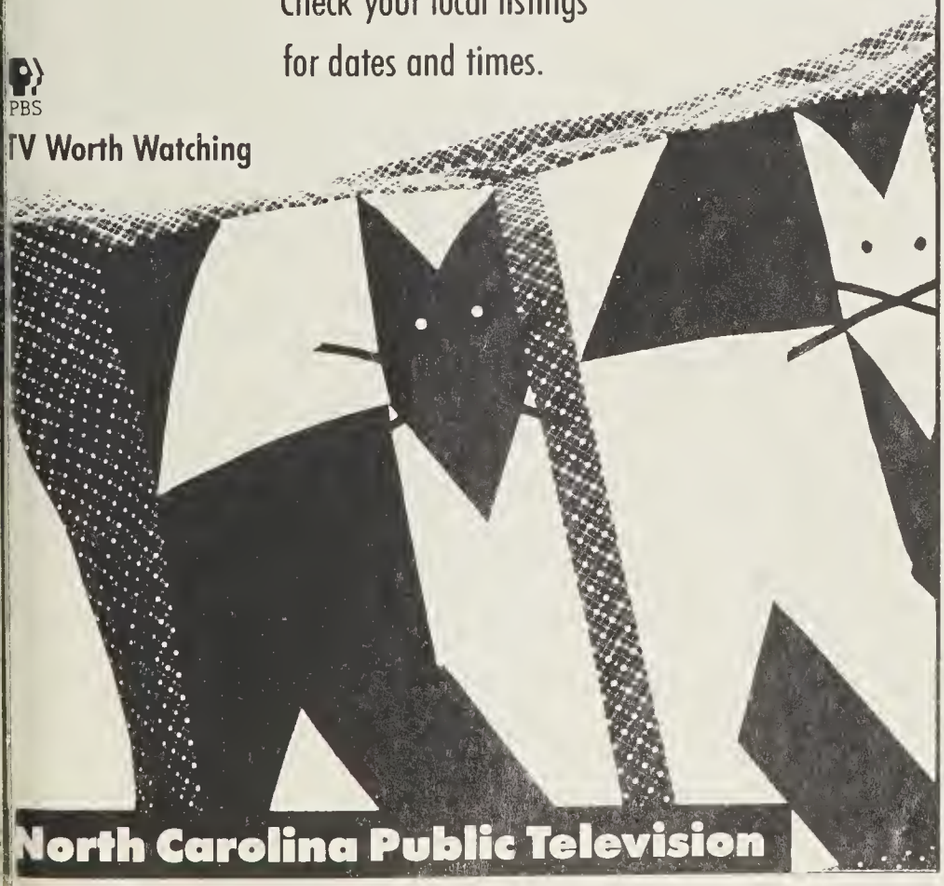

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By Owen Bish

A Book About Water By A Writer Named Hydro?

In cleaning out my office I came across several items I'd saved over the past several months, hoping to find a spot for them in this column. Here are a few of them:

• One of the items is a book that was advertised in our pages last September. Headlined, "Is Drinking Water A Mystery To You?", it promoted a book on the subject published by Hydro Publications, Inc. When it came in, I was concerned about the signature on the correspondence: Linda Hydro. A pen name? A scam? A joke?

We checked it out and it was none of the above.

The book, *How To Understand Your Drinking Water: A Layman's Guide To Contaminants and Treatment,* was indeed written by Linda H. Hydro of Rocky Point.

"My name is not a clever play on words; it really is Linda Hydro," she wrote in the book's introduction. "I was chemist-bacteriologist at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant, Wilmington, for 10 years."

She said her work there and in other settings convinced her that average need people to know more about water contaminants, and she wrote the book in an effort to fill that need.

"Each person must become enough of a 'chemist' to learn to protect the water supply. You must learn what the various chemicals in use at home or at work will do to the environment and, subsequently, to your own body."

Mrs. Hydro, a consumer-member of Four County Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Burgaw, now handles water testing in a division of Oxford Laboratories in Wilmington.

The 70-page self-published manual is available for $12.60 per copy, including tax and shipping charges.

• Sheryl Comer of Rt. 1, Robbins, sent us a copy of her company's handsome mail order catalog offering a variety of handmade items—almost all of them produced in the Robbins area especially for her.

"Our catalog features 80 percent items that I make and 20 percent items made by local craftsmen. The items in the catalog are all made in North Carolina except one,which is made by a friend in Ohio."

She added that materials used for these items are of products from North Carolina wherever possible.

Mrs. Comer is a consumer-member of Randolph EMC, Asheboro.

Write for a catalog at this address: A Scented Fragrance, Rt. 1, Box 310, Robbins, NC 27325. You can call her at (919) 464-3875.

• Perry Ennis of Greenville sent us a copy of his self-published book, *Contract Your Home and Save,* a softcover guidebook that's subtitled, "A Complete Guide To Residential Contract Building."

The former construction worker, who is now a purchasing agent at East Carolina University, wrote the book based on his experience in acting as the contractor for his own "dream house."

In a letter accompanying the book, he wrote that handling that job made him realize how little information is available to help people learn how to play this role.

When his house was finished, he had saved about $26,000 on the project and thought he ought to share what he'd learned in the process. He compiled his notes and files into this 171-page volume.

The book is available for $12, including postage. North Carolina residents must add 5 percent for sales tax. Order copies from Ennis Southeastern Publishing Company, 2462 Stantonsburg Road, Suite 144, Greenville, NC 278 Phone: (919) 752-0666.

A Toast To The New Year

For our traditional January toast to the New Year, we offer an edited version of an essay by one of our regular contributors, Carol Bessent Hayman of Beaufort. Her "Twelve Suggestions for a Happy New Year" are intended to help us develop and keep a positive attitude:

1. **Stop putting things off.** Procrastination is the thief of time, and time is the stuff of which life is made. Don't stand still; move forward....

2. **Get involved in interesting projects.** Try art classes, music appreciation, creative writing, computer science, or something that's exciting and challenging.

3. **Use your library.**

4. **See a new play; join a reading or drama club.**

5. **Do something for others.** Many people are handicapped or lonely.... Often a small service will brighten their days and will also make us feel better for doing it.

6. **Follow an exercise program that suits your particular need....** Exercise is a good way to maintain body tone and good health.

7. **Expand your knowledge.** Learning is both a tool and a key. It will help you cope with new ideas.

8. **Take care of your body.** Practice good eating habits. Avoid things that are harmful....

9. **Travel.**

10. **Face problems with confident faith in God.** Live one day at a time.

11. **Think and act on your own positive suggestions and have a Happy New Year.** As Horace, the Greek philosopher, said, "Dare to be wise; begin! He who postpones the hour of living rightly is like the man who waits for the river to run out before he crosses."

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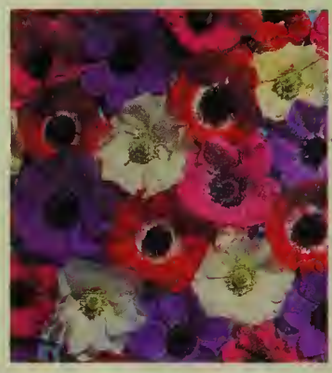

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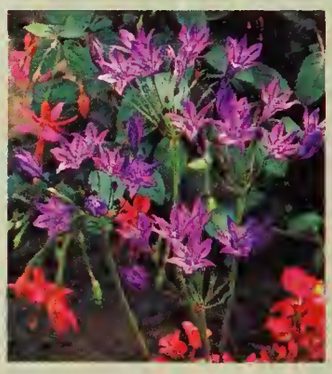

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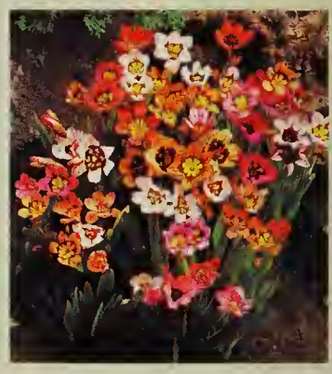

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